

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**1961/1962**  
**THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**  
**AKROPONG-AKUAPEM.**



With the compliments of

*The Headmaster & Manager*

THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

P.O. BOX 29

AKROPONG—AKUAPEM.

PHONE NO. 13

GHANA, W.A.

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**

**AKROPONG - AKUAPEM**

**GHANA, WEST AFRICA.**

**1961/62**



**REPORT ON**  
**THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, AKROPONG**  
**1961/62**

*HEADMASTER & MANAGER*

**MR. A. G. SAKYIAMA AMOAKO**

The normal day to day activities in the School were undisturbed throughout the year, and the work, demanding self-sacrifice and persistence, was brought to a successful conclusion at the end of the year.

**ENROLMENT:-**

The number on roll was 71: 61 boys and 10 girls of all ages drawn from all over Ghana and the sister states as follows:-

Ewe .....	12	Akim Kotoku .....	2
Ga .....	7	Bawku .....	2
Ashanti .....	7	Buam .....	1
Akuapem .....	6	Krobo .....	1
Fanti .....	6	Nzima .....	1
Gonja .....	5	Agona .....	1
Anum .....	4	Dagomba .....	1
Akim Abuakwa .....	3	Brong/Ahafo .....	1
Kwahu .....	3	Adangbe .....	1
Republic of Togo .....	3	Southern Cameroons .....	1
Akwamu .....	2	Northern Nigeria .....	1

**STAFF:**

The number of staff remains the same as in the last year. This team of happy band worked together harmoniously and co-operatively.

**Teaching Staff:-**

Mr. A.G. Sakyiama Amoako	—	Headmaster & Manager
Mrs. Emily A. Amoako	—	Primary Class I
Mr. Isaac K. Ansa*	—	„ Class II
„ G. C. Mawuli Woname	—	„ Classes III & IV
„ E. L. Dogbe*	—	„ Classes V & VI
„ M. Nkansa Okyere	—	Middle Forms I & II
„ Ofori Boahene	—	„ Forms III & IV
„ G. F. Asiedu	—	Vocational - Crafts
„ I. Ofori Addo*	—	„ „
„ F. K. Ampadu	—	Commercial - Typing

\* Blind

### Other Staff:-

Mr. K. Obiri-Boateng, Jnr.	—	Financial Clerk
„ S. A. Osei	—	Clerical Assistant
„ A. Koranteng Hall	—	Messenger
„ A. O. Kwayisi	—	Driver
Kwadwo Grunshie		
Yaw Budu	—	Labourers
Kwame Osew		

### Domestic Staff:-

Mrs. Ellen Nnoma	—	Matron
Madam Rosina Gyamea	—	Cook
„ Vida Asantewa	—	Cook
„ Felicia Apeatuwa	—	Assistant Cook
Mr. Ben Ofori Addo*	—	Steward

### PATRON :

MADAM FATHIA NKRUMAH

### Members of the Board of Management:-

Rev. J. Noel Smith, M.A., B.D., Dip.Ed., Principal, Presbyterian Training College - Chairman (Retired)

Dr. Oku Ampofo, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.) L.R.F.P.S. (Glasg.)  
School Doctor, Mampong-Akuapem.

E. V. C. Dako, Esq., General Manager, Prebyterian Educational Unit.

Robert Dodoo, Esq., General Manager, Methodist Educational Unit.

Rev. Joe K. Clegg, Methodist Church, Larteh.

A. K. Kitcher Esq., Senior Education Officer, representing Ministry of Education.

A. G. Sakyiama Amoako, Esq., Dip. C.T.B., Headmaster and Manager - Secretary.

K. Obiri-Boateng, Jnr., Esq., Financial Clerk - Recorder.

### Members of the Rehousing Committee:

Rev. J. Noel Smith, M.A., B.D., Dip.Ed., -Chairman (Retired)

Rt. Rev. E. M. L. Odjidja, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

Dr. Oku Ampofo, L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin.) L.R.F.P.S. (Glasg).

Rev. G. Ankra Badu, Ag. Synod Clerk, Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

V. C. Opoku, Esq., Nautical College, Accra - Secretary.

Francis Akufo, Esq., Akropong-Akuapem.

A. G. Sakyiama Amoako, Esq., Dip. C.T.B., Headmaster & Manager.

K. Obiri-Boateng, Jnr., Esq., Financial Clerk - Recorder.

### FURTHER STUDIES:

(i) **Teacher Training College:** Miss Victoria Oye Otoo\* is a student at the Krobo Training College, Krobo Odumase, in the first year of a four year course. She is making satisfactory progress.

(ii) **United Kingdom Scholarships:** (a) Two members of the staff, Mr. S. C. Owusu-Bamfo and Mr. M. B. Nnoma are in the Royal School for the Blind, Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh, for Crafts and School Teachers' courses.

Mr. Owusu-Bamfo is expected back to re-enforce the staff during the 1962/63 academic year.

(b) Mr. Baako Pobee\*, a typing student at the School is on a Physiotherapy Course in London and Mr. Obadjiba Jatoo\* a Post Secondary student from the Presbyterian Training College, Akropong, is also taking a School Teachers' course at the Royal School for the Blind, Craigmillar Park, Edinburgh.

(c) Messrs. F. K. Ampadu and E. L. Dogbe\*, have been granted scholarships under the Commonwealth Bursary Unit, tenable for a period of one academic year from September, 1962, to July, 1963, for a course in the teaching of blind children at the University of Birmingham, Department of Education, Birmingham, England.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS:

### (a) Middle School Leaving Certificate Examination:

All the four boys in Middle Form IV who sat for this year's examination had 100% passes and one of them secured distinction.

### (b) Crafts Examination:

One boy was presented for the Crafts Examination this year. It was presided over by Mr. Peter Reddick of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. He secured a satisfactory Pass.

## VISITS:

(a) **Visit to the North:** During June, 1961, the Headmaster & Manager with his Crafts Teacher, Mr. G. F. Asiedu made an extensive tour of the North, The School for the Blind at Wa as well as the Bolgatanga Rehabilitation Centre for blind adults.



The School for the Blind Wa, Upper Region.



The following was the route of their trek:—Kumasi, Techiman, Wenchi, Bole, Wa, Lawra, Tumu, Nankong on the banks of River Sissilli, Navrongo, Paga, Bolgatanga, Pusiga, Gambaga, Walewale, Tamale, Salaga, Atebubu and back home.



Vocational Crafts Centre, Bolgatanga, Upper Region

The Headmaster contacted officers of Health Centres, Hospitals, Local Councils, Chiefs and other influential persons in the North, and urged them to report any incidence of blind, deaf,



Mr. A. G. Sakyiama Amoako, The Headmaster/  
Manager of the Akropong School for the Blind with  
the Chief of Nankong on the Banks of River Sissili  
where River blindness is very common.

crippled young and old to the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development or to him for registration, education and training. It was a really tiresome but very interesting journey.

**(b) Visit to Sekondi/Takoradi:** In July, 1961, under the auspices of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development the School visited Sekondi and Takoradi in connection with the Registration Programme for the Rehabilitation of Handicapped and Destitute Campaign.

The School left Akropong on Saturday, 8th July, 1961, and were housed at the Boys' Remand Home in Sekondi. They were well cared for by their hosts.

The School attended Divine Services on Sunday, 9th. July, in the forenoon at the Sekondi Presbyterian Chapel and in the evening at the Methodist Chapel. In the afternoon of Sunday, 9th. July, 1961, there was a Demonstration on the Methodist School park.

The Headmaster & Manager preached in both Chapels during which he gave an account of the life and work of the blind children and urged parents to send their handicapped children and relatives, both young and old to the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development for registration. He impressed upon them the need for the education of the physically handicapped children. They visited Takoradi on Monday and returned to Akropong the same day.

(c) **Visit to Nkawkaw - Kwahu:** In November, 1961, a party, numbering 58 including the school children, members of the teaching and domestic staffs left Akropong on Saturday, 25th. November, 1961, for an educational visit to Nkawkaw. The School staged a concert at the Royal Cinema Palace on Saturday night.

On Sunday, 26th. November, they attended Divine Services in the Presbyterian Church in the forenoon and in the Methodist Church in the evening.

In the afternoon of the Sunday, the 26th, the School demonstrated the life and work of the School at the Presbyterian School grounds. Our hosts were the Presbyterian and the Methodist Churches. It was a real revival.

## **VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL:**

The School had several visitors, distinguished, School parties private and official visitors - from both home and abroad. Space will not permit me to mention the names of all recorded in our visitors' book. Few to mention are:- Mr. Geoffrey Bing, Attorney General, Accra; Mr. Peter Scott-Young, Australia; Mr. T. U. Philip, India; Mr. William Minter, U.S.A.; Mr. Henry John Postel, U.S.A.; Mr. Walter V. Gray, Liberia; ~~Mr.~~ Mrs. Tone Knudsen, Oslo-Norway; Mr. John Wilson, Edinburgh; Dr. C. R. Doering, T.Q.M.H., Mampong-Akuapem; Sir Selwyn-Clarke; Mr. Raeph W. Leoyd, World Presbyterian Alliance, Geneva; Mr. Zian Azraai, Ministry of External Affairs, Malaya; Students from Nursing Training Colleges, Accra; Students, Presbyterian Training College, Agogo; Mr. W. A. C. Essibrah, M.P., Chairman, Advisory Com-

mittee on Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped; Mr. W. G. Jeffery, Canada; Col. V. R. Schjeldrup, Office of the Canadian High Commissioner, Accra; Mr. & Mrs. F. D. Harker, Peki; Dr. Peter Handerson and Professor Hawlett, both of the Ministry of Education, London; Rev. T. A. Osei, General Secretary, Christian Council of Ghana with Professor King, University of Ghana, Legon; Mr. Alan H. Hamilton and Mr. W. Anderson of United Presbyterian Church, New York; Mr. Bryan, Winston Salem, N.C., U.S.A.; Rev. & Mrs. Harris Mobley, Georgia, U.S.A.; a group of Somali Students, K.N.U.S.T., Kumasi.

## OBITUARY

(a) **Mr. Hermish M. Lockhead:** Mr. Hermish M. Lockhead, Braille specialist on the staff of the Royal School for the Blind, Edinburgh had been generous to the School in adapting the books which we have published in Braille (a) The First aid in English by Angus Maciver. (b) The Series of the Oxford English Course for Ghana, free of charge to the School for the past years since we embarked on the publication of these text books in Braille in 1957. His services are so valuable to the School. We regret to record his death which took place in January, 1962.

ne (b) **Yawo Martin:** The death of the pupils of the School, Yawo Martin of Lolobi Kumasi, in Buem District, which sad event occurred on Tuesday, 15th. May, 1962, at Tetteh Quarshie Memorial Hospital, Mampong-Akuapem, after a short illness. Since the establishment of this School and during the past 17 years, such a loss had never been sustained by the School.

## DEPARTURE:

(a) **Rev. J. Noel Smith:** Rev. J. Noel Smith, Chairman of the Board of Management of the School, left for good in mid-March, 1962. A farewell party was held in his honour at the School, during which the children entertained the guest of honour and the invited guests with both vocal and band music. The members of the Board presented a gold tie pin and the School a linen basket to the Rev. Smith as their parting gifts.



Mrs. Emily A. Amoako pinning the Tie Pin to  
Rev. J. Noel Smith's shirt.

(b) **Mr. & Mrs. F. D. Harker:** A Send-off-Party was organised by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana with the Education Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana at the Legion Hall, Accra, on 9th. June, 1962, in honour of Mr. & Mrs. F. D. Harker, on the occasion of their retirement from the Ghana service.

The staff and pupils of the School were invited to the ceremony. The music and songs rendered by the School touched many hearts and won their admiration.



Rev. J. Noel Smith delivering his farewell address to the Audience.





Group Photograph of the Staff and Pupils of the School for the Blind-Akropong with Mr. & Mrs. F. D. Harker during their Farewell Party at Akropong-Akuapem

Mr. A. J. Dowuona-Hammond, Minister of Education, presented twenty guineas to the School. He said: 'Moderator, Justice Nii Amaa Ollennu, Rev. Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Allow me to divert a bit by saying that I am so thrilled by the song of the School for the Blind, Akropong; and my joy is such that with your permission, Moderator, allow me to give a little donation of 20 guineas'. This donation was received by the Headmaster & Manager with great ovation by the audience.

One remarkable feature of Mr. Harker's service in Ghana is his philanthropic work for the blind and the crippled, in short all physically handicapped persons. For this our country owes him a great debt of gratitude.



Mr. & Mrs. F. D. Harker, Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Sakyama Amoako with the first two boys Mr. Harker had as his house boys. Benhardt Ofori Addo – Extreme right. Isaac Ofori Addo – Extreme left. (Both Paternal Cousins)



## REHOUSING:

The project was tackled steadily and within a few months the new School began to take shape. The first phase of the project had almost been completed when the Contractor stopped work unceremoniously.

On account of the stoppage, the Board of Management terminated the Contract. The Contractor requested that the matter be settled by arbitration. The Board of Management and the Rehousing committee accepted the suggestion for arbitration. The arbitration is yet to be settled.

The Contracting Firm, the Northern Reliance Company Limited, has meanwhile been voluntarily liquidated according to the Ghana Commercial and Industrial Bulletin page 209 of No. 13 dated Friday, 23rd. March, 1962.

Out of the £G35,000 grant, a block of 10 classrooms with stores, a Dining Hall and Kitchen, a Power House and Garage, Headmaster's quarters and part of the Dormitory block house had been built.

A further grant of £G10,000 had been released by Government through the initiative of Mr. W. A. C. Essibrah, M.P., Chairman, Advisory Committee on the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, to complete the project soon after the arbitration is settled.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS, FEASTS AND DONATIONS

(a) **John Milton Society:** The John Milton Society's yearly Christmas donation came in as usual, this year, they donated £G426 3s. 7d. We express our grateful thanks for their continued support.

(b) **Achimota School:** Our sincere thanks also go to Achimota School who call in at the end of every academic year with presents of clothing, powder, towels, soap and cash donation.

(c) **Madam Fathia Nkrumah,** Patron of the School presented £G30 to the School for the Christmas entertainment. Both the pupils and the staff enjoyed the Christmas feast prepared from the gift from the Patron with grateful thanks.

(d) **UNESCO Gift Coupons:** With the UNESCO gift coupons it has been possible to produce in Braille the series of the Oxford English Course for Ghana by kind permission of the Publishers. The First Aid in English has also been published in Braille.

(e) **American Food gifts and clothes to Ghana:** We continue to receive the American food gifts through the Christian Council of Ghana, and for this we are grateful.

(f) **The Controller of Customs:** presented to the School gifts of unclaimed goods - Cheese and 'Meals for millions'.

(g) **Legacy - Rev. Nicholas T. Clerk:** We record with high appreciation the generosity of the late Rev. N. T. Clerk, the First Synod Clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana for leaving to the Akropong School for the Blind in his will a legacy of £G5. This is the first legacy left to the School.

To such great souls as this, Our Lord and Master will one day say: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

To our numerous friends who have donated in cash or kind to the School we say thank you.

## **OUR ACHIEVEMENT**

Since the establishment of the School we have produced three teachers, five typists employed by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, seven craft teachers teaching in normal Middle Schools, four girls working at the Powder factory of A. J. Seward (Ghana) Limited, Accra.

## **FOSTER PARENTS**

(a) I have great pleasure in recording the kindness of Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Newman of Takoradi who have adopted two more children. This is their second adoption of two children. Mr. & Mrs. Newman have a long record of sympathy and generosity towards the School.

(b) We are also grateful to the Accra Women's Association for adopting Issifa Gonja. They have proposed adopting another child.

## **CONCLUSION**

I am thankful to the members of the Board of Management, the Rehousing Committee and the Ghana Architectural and Civil Engineering Company for their unfailing support in the management of the School and the rehousing project.

We are grateful also to the Minister of Education and the officers of his Ministry for their co-operation.

With the Lord on our side we look into the future with renewed hope and vision trusting in His unfailing support, guidance and blessing.



W. A. C. Essibrah, Esq., M.P., Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Rehabilitation of the Destitute and Physically Handicapped persons.

## APPENDIX

### A TALK BY MR. W. A. C. ESSIBRAH, M.P., CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE REHABILITATION OF THE DESTITUTE AND THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS ON FRIDAY, 22ND. JUNE, 1962, BROADCAST AT 8.28 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 28TH. JUNE, 1962.

Before Ghana's attainment of Independence, the plight of the Destitute and the Physically handicapped persons was miserable. They had for a long time been looked upon as either sub-human beings or human beings deserving nothing more than pity. Such pity as was offered them came from voluntary or philanthropic organisations or individual persons whose hearts were stirred as they came across them. There was nothing or very little that the Government did for them. There was no record of any number of persons who were destitute or handicapped. Parents or relatives of blind persons or cripples looked upon them as nuisance, a shame which must be hidden from the ranks of men.

On the 10th. of October, 1959, only two years after the attainment of Independence, Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah drew the attention of his Government to the extent of disablement in Ghana and proposed that action be taken urgently to promote a comprehensive Government sponsored programme of education and rehabilitation which would restore economic and social independence to as many of the disabled as possible in the shortest possible time. As a result, a Committee was appointed to carry out a survey of handicapped persons and to prepared for the approval of Cabinet a comprehensive programme for their care and rehabilitation.

The Government had earlier decided that an advisory body should be established to co-ordinate, administer and control all services for handicapped and destitute persons. As a result the Advisory Committee on the Rehabilitation of Destitute and Physically Handicapped Persons has been formed.

The Committee has the assistance of a Technical Adviser on Rehabilitation who has been sent to Ghana by the United Kingdom Government under the Technical Assistance Scheme. Quite recently two officials of the British Ministry of Education have also been invited to Ghana under the United Kingdom Technical Assistance Scheme to advise on the education of handicapped children.

The first duty of the Advisory Committee was to educate the general public on the capabilities of the Destitutes and the Physically Handicapped. A programme of broadcast talks, public lectures and speeches, newspaper publications is being pursued with vigour. The fruits of that exercise are that wrong ideas and prejudices among some people that the handicapped were nuisance in society are now giving way to more sober understanding. People are now realising that given the necessary assistance they too can live a decent life.

The exercise of registration of the Destitute and the Handicapped was started with a broadcast talk by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, launching the Handicapped citizens' week on the evening of the 19th of June, 1961. Officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development went out into the field and with the co-operation of Local Councils and Voluntary Organisations, 11, 960 Destitutes and Handicapped persons out of whom 2,080 are of school going age have been registered up to the end of May, 1962. Registration still continues. From the beginning of March, each of the eight regions in Ghana has been divided into 6 campaign areas with a month devoted to one area at a time in an attempt to discover all the handicapped in the area and to register them.

It will assist the Rehabilitation Service if hospital staffs and doctors, dispensers, voluntary society workers and others in touch with the disabled will bring to the notice of the disabled, the service now available. Full particulars, including application forms, may be obtained from any office of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development, or any employment office of the Labour Exchange.

Much more has been done than meets the eye in the service of the Destitute and the Handicapped. Several specialists have been invited or encouraged to visit Ghana and offer assistance. Among them have been Sir Alexander Drummond who did 4 weeks' survey of the incidence of Deafness in Ghana and whose report is still awaited; Mr. John Dugdale, British Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf, whose visit to Ghana in February this year has inspired the formation of Ghana Society for the Deaf to be more directly concerned with the welfare of the Deaf in Ghana. Officers of the Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development have spared no effort to assist individual handicapped persons in gaining employment and also children of school going age in gaining entrance to schools.

But perhaps the most outstanding achievement which meets the public eye is the setting up of Rehabilitation Units. The target is that an Industrial Rehabilitation Unit should be established in



Accra; and one Rural Rehabilitation Unit should be established in each of the eight Regions in Ghana. Taking advantage of the Ghana United Kingdom Technical Assistance Programme, a Technical Adviser, Mr. E. G. Johnson, has now been engaged in implementing the first phase of setting up rehabilitation units.—namely Rural Rehabilitation Units at Kwaso, Ho and Tamale and an Industrial Rehabilitation Units at Accra. Last February, the Rural Rehabilitation Unit at Kwaso (20 miles from Kumasi) was opened with 27 handicapped persons, majority of whom are young, being under 30 years. At present the training programme is restricted to agriculture, poultry keeping, cane weaving and wood-carving. Other suitable crafts will soon be include in the scheme. Ho Unit was commenced in late March this year with 14 physically handicapped persons.

It is interesting to know that the people in villages surrounding Kwaso demonstrate their interest by making gifts of foodstuffs and fruit to the handicapped. A local church organises Sunday Services for them.

The Tamale Rehabilitation Unit has opened under favourable conditions . The Unit is fairly well equipped from the beginning. The Inmates numbering 30 have arrived and their reconditioning has started in earnest.

Training Courses at the Rchabilitation Units are designed to suit the needs of the individual. There is no such thing as a standard course of rehabilitation. The facilities of the Unit are adapted to each man's requirements.

Men attending the course are given full board and lodging, and a little pocket money each week. They are employed on a variety of jobs, each designed to test their capacity for work, their ability, and to provide them with opportunities of learning new things and discovering their work preferences. Some of the activities are designed to make them as fit as possible. Assistance is given in helping them to minimise their disabilities, and they may be shown simple ways of doing things that are difficult for them.

There is no set time limit to courses of rehabilitation. The length of course will dcpend upon individual progress. The average course may be ten weeks for rehabilitation, but perhaps six months where rural crafts are being taught.

All courses are voluntary and depend upon close co-operation between the handicapped and the Unit staff for their success.

At the conclusion of courses, every effort will be made to assist people into suitable work, or to settle down into their home environment. Staff will keep in touch with them to deal with any problems that arise for a period of eight months after their training.

An Industrial Rehabilitation Unit will soon be opened in Accra. Structural changes to convert the Vocational Training Centre in the Ghana Society for the Blind at Accra for this purpose are in progress. The Accra Unit will provide for 40 residential places and 20 or 30 non-residential places for a six month period. It is hoped that this, in addition to the three Rural Rehabilitation Units at Kwaso, Ho and Tamale and others to be established in the other Regions in future, will not only help "to restore the worker to industry, the citizen to society and the man to himself" but hasten Ghana's economic emancipation.

On the education front, the Akropong (Akuapem) and Wa schools are serving as model schools for the blind while the Mampong (Akuapem) school continues to serve a useful role in the education of the deaf and dumb.

In conclusion, let me say that a nation is also judged by how it tackles the rehabilitation of its handicapped citizens and Ghana, in this respect, shall not be found wanting, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of our illustrious leader, Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, President of Republic of Ghana.











